# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3812
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2007
BEEDI WORKERS UNDER PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME
Mahato Shri Narahari

**Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) the number of beedi workers in the country getting the benefit of provident fund scheme, State-wise;

(b) the details of the Government mechanism for ensuring full benefits under the labour laws to all the workers;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the activities of certain unscrupulous elements in the office of provident fund who are allegedly exploiting the workers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such activities to prevent exploitation of the workers?

## Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a): As on 31.03.2006, the number of beedi workers getting benefits under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 was 19,88,257 as per details given in Annexure-'A'.

(b): The Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 applies with its own force and the establishments fulfilling the condition of the applicability are required to comply with the provisions of the Act. Special drives are launched from time-to-time for coverage of coverable establishments avoiding compliance. Further compliance of the covered establishments is monitored regularly to ensure that the benefits under the Act and Schemes framed thereunder are extended to all eligible employees.

(c) & (d): With a view to restrict the activities of unscrupulous elements, strict vigil is kept on the functioning of all offices of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation. A full-fledged grievance redressal machinery already exists in the Organisation to redress grievances of the aggrieved member/employer. Whenever activities of unscrupulous elements are detected, appropriate action e.g. lodging complaints, disciplinary action etc. is taken against the persons concerned.